

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

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Share Multicultural Books With Young Children



We live in a diverse world, and it is important we celebrate the variety of cultures in our society, neighborhoods, schools or classrooms. Books are one way we can do this. Children like seeing images of themselves in books, and it helps them develop positive self-esteem and pride in their family background. It is also beneficial for children to learn about other people that may or may not look like them. Multicultural books help them understand that despite our differences, we are similar in many ways.

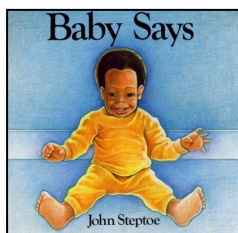
Make sure to include the sharing of multicultural books when you read aloud to children. Choose books that highlight different customs, values and languages or books that tell great stories and simply show people from different cultures living, playing or working together.

Multicultural Library Books

Fairfax County Public Library has a wonderful selection of multicultural books that young children will enjoy hearing read aloud. Find these and many other stories at your neighborhood library branch.

Baby Says by John Steptoe

A little boy figures out how to get along with his baby brother.



appeal to the youngest vehicle enthusiasts as we follow firefighters sliding down the fire pole, racing through town and up the ladder truck.

The Color of Us by Karen Katz

Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.

Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell

A counting book that features an African-American family shopping for food, preparing dinner and sitting down to eat.

Fire Engine No. 9 by Mike Austin

Told almost entirely in sound words, this day-in-the-life look at firefighters and their fire truck will

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho

A lullaby with animal sounds and rhyming text that asks animals such as a lizard, monkey and water-buffalo to be quiet and not disturb the sleeping baby.



I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison

On a trip to the park with her mother, a young girl hears a rhythm coming from the world around her and begins to move to the beat, finally beginning an impromptu dance in which other children join her.

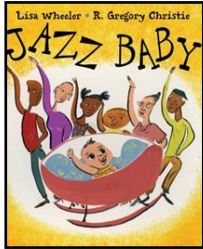
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It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon by Jarrett

Krosoczka

Illustrations and simple text suggest ways see the positive side of difficulties, from losing one's balloon to being left with a new babysitter.



Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler

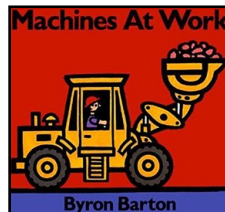
A beboppin' baby gets his whole family singing and dancing. Things start to wind down when Mama and Daddy sing blues so sweet and a perfectly drowsy baby goes to sleep.

Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn

Every Tuesday Lola and her mother visit their local library to return and check out books, attend story readings and share a special treat.

Machines at Work by Byron Barton

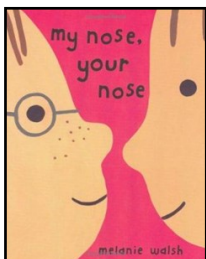
During a busy day at the construction site, the workers use a variety of machines to knock down a building and begin constructing a new one.



Mama, Do You Love Me?

by Barbara M. Joosse

A child living in the Arctic learns that a mother's love is unconditional.



My Nose, Your Nose by Melanie Walsh

Looks at what pairs of children have in common, despite their obvious differences, such as Daisy and Kit both kicking hard in the pool, although one's legs are short and the other's long.

My People by Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people is captured in vivid sepia photographs.

One Family by George Shannon

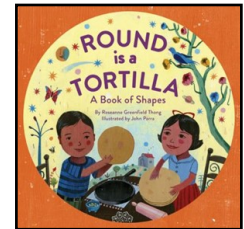
This story introduces numbered groups from one to ten and shows how a family can be big or small and comprised of people of a range of genders and races.

Red is a Dragon: A Book of Colors by Roseanne Thong

A Chinese American girl provides rhyming descriptions of the great variety of colors she sees around her, from the red of a dragon, firecrackers and lychees to the brown of her teddy bear.

Round is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong

A little girl discovers things that are round, square and rectangular in her Hispanic American neighborhood.



Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong

As a little girl discovers things round, square and rectangular in her urban neighborhood, she is reminded of her Chinese American culture.

The Twins' Blanket by Hyewon Yum

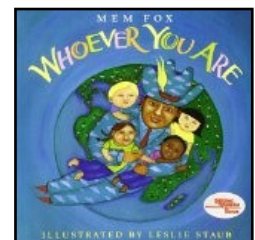
Two Korean American twin girls, who have always shared everything, sleep in separate beds with their own blankets for the first time.

What Can You Do With a Paleta? by Carmen Tafolla

A young Mexican American girl celebrates the paleta, an icy fruit popsicle, and the many roles it plays in her lively barrio.

Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

Despite the differences between people around the world, there are similarities that join us together, such as pain, joy and love.



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